

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 84 (Canceled).

85 (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim ~~80~~101, wherein said circularly permuted β -lactamase protein consists of amino acids 26 to 288 of the following sequence prior to circular permutation

His Pro Glu Thr Leu Val Lys Val Lys Asp Ala Glu Asp Gln Leu Gly			
26	30	35	40
Ala Arg Val Gly Tyr Ile Glu Leu Asp Leu Asn Ser Gly Lys Ile Leu			
	45	50	55
Glu Ser Phe Arg Pro Glu Glu Arg Phe Pro Met Met Ser Thr Phe Lys			
	60	65	70
Val Leu Leu Cys Gly Ala Val Leu Ser Arg Ile Asp Ala Gly Gln Glu			
75	80	85	
Gln Leu Gly Arg Arg Ile His Tyr Ser Gln Asn Asp Leu Val Glu Tyr			
90	95	100	105
Ser Pro Val Thr Glu Lys His Leu Thr Asp Gly Met Thr Val Arg Glu			
	110	115	120
Leu Cys Ser Ala Ala Ile Thr Met Ser Asp Asn Thr Ala Ala Asn Leu			
	125	130	135
Leu Leu Thr Thr Ile Gly Gly Pro Lys Glu Leu Thr Ala Phe Leu His			
	140	145	150
Asn Met Gly Asp His Val Thr Arg Leu Asp Arg Trp Glu Pro Glu Leu			
	155	160	165
Asn Glu Ala Ile Pro Asn Asp Glu Arg Asp Thr Thr Met Pro Val Ala			

(SEQ ID NO: 2);

86-89 (Canceled).

wherein said circularly permuted TEM-1 β -lactamase protein is functionally reconstituted only upon binding of said first interactor domain and said second interactor domain to said ligand.

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first interactor domain is an antibody, and said second interactor domain is a first monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix, or

wherein said ligand is comprised of an antibody fused to a second monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix protein, said first interactor domain is an antigen and said second interactor domain is a first monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix and

wherein the first monomer of the hetero-dimerizing helix specifically binds to the second monomer of the hetero-dimerizing helix protein and the antibody specifically binds to the antigen.

92 (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 91, wherein the antibody is an scFv.

93-97 (Canceled).

98 (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim ~~80~~100, wherein the first interactor domain is fused through a first flexible polypeptide linker to the circularly permuted β -lactamase protein through the N-terminal break-point, and the second interactor domain is fused through a second flexible polypeptide linker to the circularly permuted β -lactamase protein through the C-terminal break-point.

99 (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 98, wherein said first polypeptide linker is 3-30 amino acids in length; and wherein said second polypeptide linker is 3-30 amino acids in length.

100 (New) A polypeptide consisting essentially of:
a circularly permuted TEM-1 β -lactamase protein having an N-terminal fragment with a C-terminus and a C-terminal fragment with an N-terminus, a first interactor domain, and a second interactor domain;

wherein the first interactor domain is fused through the N-terminus of the C-terminal fragment, and the second interactor domain is fused through the C-terminus of the N-terminal fragment; and

wherein the N-terminus and the C-terminus are located within a solvent exposed loop between amino acid residues Thr 195 and Ala 202; and

wherein the first interactor domain is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a first monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix, a second monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix, a receptor, a member of an expressed sequence library, and a member of a constrained peptide library; and

wherein the second interactor domain is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a first monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix, a second monomer of a hetero-dimerizing helix, a receptor, a member of an expressed sequence library, and a member of a constrained peptide library;

wherein the circularly permuted TEM-1 β -lactamase protein is functionally reconstituted only upon binding of said first interactor domain to said second interactor domain.

101 (New) The polypeptide of claim 100, wherein the C-terminus of the N-terminal fragment is Glu 197 and the N-terminus of the C-terminal fragment is Leu 198.